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Message Text

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20
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EPA-01 OES-03 CEQ-01

OMB-01 /074 W
---------- 070225
R 281912Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8516
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01415

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, UK, US, FR
SUB.ECT: CIVAIR - CONCORDE

REF: LONDON 1166

1. BIPARTISAN GROUP OF MP BACKBENCHERS MET IN HOUSE OF COMMONS JAN. 07 AND AGREED AMONG THEMSELVES THAT IN EVENT COLEMAN DECISION QOES AGAINST CONCORDE, MPS WILL ASK TRADE UNIONS TO HOLD UP HANDLING OF GOODS ARRIVING IN UK FROM U.Q. PARTICULARLY SHIPMENTS FROM NEW YORK. WE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE ASCERTAIN HOW MANY MPS PARTICIPATED IN MEETING BUT WE UNDERSTAND THEY WERE FOR MOST PART MPS WITH IMPORTANT CONSTITUENCY INTERESTS IN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY.

2. OTHER ITEMS RELATING TO CONCORDE:
(A) FRELCH TRANSPORT MINISTER CAVAILLE HAS RE-PORTEDLY STATED THAT IF U.S. LANDING RIGHTS APPROVED, HE WILL MEET WITH BRITISH MINISTERS TO DISCUSS CON-STRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL 6 CONCORDES. BRITISH REQARD STATEMENT AS POLITICAL POSTURING ON PART OF CAVAILLE
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FOR BENEFIT OD HIS TOULOUSE CONSTITUENCY. BRITISH HAVE

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TOLD US THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING BEYOND 16 AIR-
CRAFT PRESENTLY PROGRAMMED UNLESS AND UNTIL COMMERCIAL
DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT DEVELOPS. CONCORDE PRO-
DUCTION LINE AT BRISTOL WILL BE SHUT DOWN WHEN 16TH
AIRCRAFT COMPLETED AND LINE WILL REMAIN IDLE BUT NOT
DISASSEMBLED DOR TIME BEING.

(B) BRITISH FULLY SHARE FRENCH VIEWS WITH RESPECT
TO EPA AND ITQ NEW PROPOSAL FOR SST NOISE RULE (SEE
PARIS 1712 AND 2619) BUT DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN
INTEREST OF ALY OF THE PARTIES TO MAKE PUBLIC ISSUE
OUT OF RECENT EPA ACTION. BRITISH CLAIM SOME CREDIT
FOR HAVING CALMED FRENCH DOWN AND RESULT IS RATHER LOW-
KEY JOINT PAPER SETTING FORTH BRITISH/FRENCH POSITION
FOR RECORD WHICH WE UNDERSTAND HAS NOW BEEN SUBMITTED.
ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE MAY REST THERE FOR THE MOMENT, IT
IS EVIDENT THAT BY ITS RECENT TACTICS EPA HAS LOST A
GREAT DEAL OF CREDIBILITY AS A RESPONSIBLE AGENCY OF
U.S. GOVERNMELT AT LEAST INSOFAR AS UK DEPARTMENTS OF
TRADE AND INDUSTRY ARE CONCERNED.

(C) BRITISH AIRWAYS CONCORDE SERVICES HAVE GOTTEN
OFF TO A RATHER SHAKY START. AFTER SMOOTH INAUGURAL
FLIGHT TO BAHPAIN, ON RETURN TRIP, AIRCRAFT LOAD HAD TO
BE LIMITED TO 68 PASSENQERS IN ORDER TO MAKE ROOM FOR
EXTRA FUEL NEEDED TO OVERCOME HEADWINDS. SECOND COM-
MERCIAL FLIGHT WAS DELAYED TWO HOURS AND 16 MINUTES DUE
TO A FAULTY WARNING LIGHT. SECOND FLIGHT CARRIED 79
PASSENGERS TO BAHRAIN BUT ONLY 31 PASSENGERS ON RETUR TO
LONDON. BRITISH AIRWAYS IS ALREADY SHOWING SOME CON-
CERN ABOUT BEING ABLE TO MAINTAIN ANYTHING CLOSE TO A
RESPECTABLE LOAD FACTOR ON THE THIN LONDON-BAHRAIN
ROUTING.

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